

2005 Press Releases

May

- 31 Bruning Announces Convictions in Online Child Enticement Cases
- 27 Bruning Files Criminal Charges Against Brown County Man for Terrorizing Tubers
- 26 Bruning Announces New Sentence for Habitual Drunk Driver
- 25 Bruning Applauds House Funding of \$72 Million for Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Recovery
- 25 Bruning's Statement on the Passage of LB 117
- 20 Bruning's Statement on the Advancement of LB 117 to Final Reading
- 17 Bruning: Nebraskans Can Now Receive AMBER Alerts Via Text Messaging
- 12 Bruning Warns Nebraskans Against Home Repair Scams in Wake of Storms
- 12 Attorney General Bruning's Statement on Judge Bataillon's Defense of Marriage Amendment Ruling
- 11 Bruning Files Petition for Disciplinary Action against Norfolk Doctor who Operated Drunk
- 11 Bruning Announces Sentence in Koch Child Abuse Case

Sunday

Monday

Tuesday

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

Saturday

May 2005

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

Column- Meth
Bill Advances
Through First
Round.

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

AG- States on
Judge Bataillon's
Defense of Marriage
Amed. AG- Warns
Nebraskan's on Home
Repair Scams- Storms
Dr. who operated Drunk

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

Column: Be on
the Lookout for
Home Repair
Scams.
AG- states on the
Advancement of LB 117
to Final Reading

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

AG- States on
Passage of LB
117
AG- Applauds House
Funding of 72 Mill. For
Missouri River
Recovery.

AG- Files
Criminal
Charges Against
Brown County Man
for Terrorizing
Tubers.

29

30

31

AG- Announces
Convictions in
Online Child
Enticement Cases.



STATE OF NEBRASKA
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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2005, 11:40 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Announces Convictions in Online Child Enticement Cases

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that his office has obtained two convictions against Internet predators in Omaha.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Every day dangerous criminals use the Internet as a tool to find their next victim. We will continue to do everything in our power to draw these predators out from the shadows and bring them to justice."

Shannon J. Wyldes, 29, was convicted of one count of online enticement of a child, a Class IIIA felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or \$10,000 in fines, by Douglas County District Court Judge James T. Gleason.

Dennis Jasa, 47, plead no contest and was convicted of online enticement of a child, a Class IIIA felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or \$10,000 in fines, by Douglas County District Court Judge Sandra Dougherty.

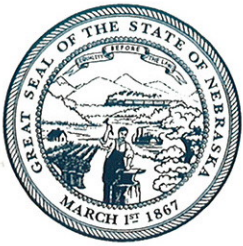
In June 2004, a Nebraska State Patrol investigator with the Internet Crimes Against Children Unit posed as a 14-year-old girl in a Yahoo! chat room where contact was initiated by the defendants in two separate incidents. Wyldes and Jasa initiated sexual conversations with the investigator and asked to meet the presumed 14-year-old at a grocery store parking lot and apartment, respectively, in LaVista for the purpose of engaging in sex. They were arrested upon their arrival.

Sentencing for Wyldes has been set for 10:30 a.m. CT Aug. 16. Sentencing for Jasa has been set for 2:00 p.m. CT Aug. 23.

The Wyldes case was handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O'Brien. The Jasa case was handled by Criminal Bureau Chief Don Kleine.

###

An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at
www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 27, 2005, 11:45 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Files Criminal Charges Against Brown County Man for Terrorizing Tubers

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning filed charges today against Jackson M. Roark of Long Pine for firing gun shots near a number of people floating in inner tubes on the Long Pine Creek in two separate incidents in July 2004.

Roark has been charged with four counts of making terroristic threats, each count a Class IV felony punishable by up to five years in prison and/or \$10,000 in fines, and two counts of use of a firearm to commit a felony, each count a Class II felony punishable by 1-50 years in prison.

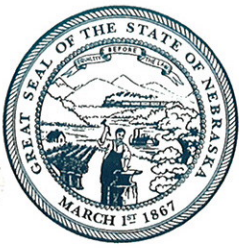
Attorney General Bruning said, "This guy is lucky no one was injured or killed. He's a menace to public safety in Brown County."

Roark's bond was set at 10 percent of \$10,000, which he posted. Arraignment has been set for 11:00 a.m. CT Wednesday, June 1.

The case is being handled by Assistant Attorney General Corey O'Brien.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 26, 2005, 2:10 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Announces New Sentence for Habitual Drunk Driver

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that habitual drunk driver Melvin Rice of Sioux City, Iowa, was sentenced to 20 months to five years in prison, the maximum available sentence, by District Court Judge Robert Burkhard. Rice was also fined \$1,000.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Justice has finally prevailed in this case. Mr. Rice has had a lot of chances to clean up his act and remain a free man. The state couldn't just stand by when Mr. Rice has repeatedly put the public at risk."

Dakota County Attorney Ed Matney said, "I'm glad we were able to achieve today's result in the Nebraska Supreme Court. I want to thank the Attorney General's Office for their assistance, which has led to the maximum possible sentence imposed by Judge Burkhard. The people of Dakota County and the entire tri-state area will be much safer."

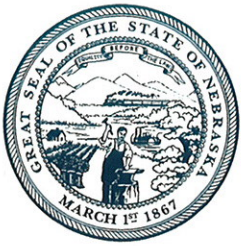
Rice, 67, was originally sentenced to three years probation by former Dakota County District Court Judge Maurice Redmond last year after his 12th drunk driving arrest. Rice has 11 previous convictions for drunk driving on his record. He was sentenced to probation on the most recent charge after agreeing to a plea bargain that reduced the drunk driving charge to driving while his license was revoked.

The Nebraska Court of Appeals upheld the sentence in a December 2004 ruling. In April 2005, the Nebraska Supreme Court vacated Rice's sentence and remanded the case back to Dakota County District Court for resentencing.

Assistant Attorney General Kevin Slimp and Dakota County Attorney Ed Matney handled the case.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2005, 5:15 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

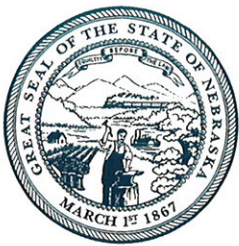
Bruning's Statement on the Passage of LB 117

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning released the following statement today on the passage of LB 117.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This is a great day for Nebraska. LB 117 will go a long way toward helping us stem the tide of methamphetamine in our communities. I want to thank the state legislature, especially Sen. Pat Bourne and Sen. Ray Aguilar, for seeing the need for this important legislation and making it a priority."

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 25, 2005, 8:50 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Applauds House Funding of \$72 Million for Missouri River Fish and Wildlife Recovery

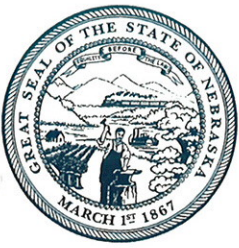
(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today his support for the U.S. House of Representatives' approval of \$72 million in funding for U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Missouri River efforts. The efforts are designed to recover endangered and threatened species in the Missouri River in a balanced approach that takes into account the needs of the people of the basin.

The Missouri River Basin Association (MRBA), comprised of representatives from the eight basin states and basin tribes, has led the effort to obtain full funding from Congress. Special Counsel to the Attorney General David Cookson has been the point person for MRBA's work with Congress.

Attorney General Bruning said, "The House of Representatives' approval of funding for the program will allow us to move forward and implement the new plan for operations. I'm pleased that we were able to provide assistance to the basin states to meet this critical need."

The Corps' plan includes a flow plan proposed by the state of Nebraska that balances the needs of people and of fish and wildlife. U.S. District Court Judge Paul Magnuson approved that plan last year. Full funding by Congress to create habitat for endangered or threatened species is a key component of the plan.

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Attorney General Jon Bruning

Guest Column: May 20, 2005

Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Be on the Lookout for Home Repair Scams

While the majority of home improvement contractors are reputable and work for a fair price, there are those who will try to deceive homeowners to line their own pockets. That's especially true following a natural disaster.

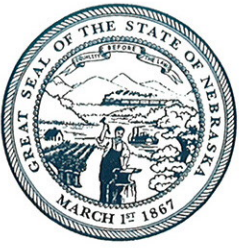
It's important for Nebraskans to remember that scam artists have no problem preying on people who have suffered property losses. Recent storms in the Hastings and Grand Island area are cause for concern because of the extensive damage to homes caused by hail and flooding.

Understandably, consumers in central Nebraska will want to get their homes fixed as quickly as possible. But it's important to take your time and exercise extra caution to ensure that the job gets done right.

The following tips can help keep you from falling victim to a scam artist:

- Don't be pressured to sign a contract immediately. Take time to research the contractor's work and company.
- Be cautious of a contractor who says they just finished work down the street and has enough leftover material to work on your home, but the offer is only good for that day.
- Out-of-state contractors are more difficult to contact if there is a problem, so be careful about working with contractors that don't have a local address.
- Always get at least three quotes for the work to be done. The more prices you have to compare, the better equipped you will be to make a fully informed decision.
- Ask friends and family about contractors that they have used for similar work and whether they were satisfied with the results.
- Make sure the contractor is bonded, licensed and insured. Get proof in writing and call the agencies to confirm.
- Insist on a written contract that includes a description of the work to be performed, materials to be used, date that the project will begin and an approximate date of completion. If the contractor is not willing to put everything in writing go to someone who will. Remember, don't sign a contract that is not completely filled out.
- Keep records of all contracts, correspondence and anything related to the work to be done.

For additional information or to file a complaint, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-727-6432, 402-471-2682 or visit us online at www.ago.state.ne.us. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 20, 2005, 11:00 a.m. CDT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

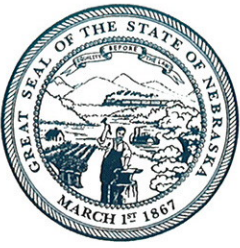
Bruning's Statement on the Advancement of LB 117 to Final Reading

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning released the following statement today on the advancement of LB 117 to final reading in the Nebraska Legislature.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Today we are one step closer to stemming the tide of methamphetamine in our communities. I'm grateful to legislators, especially State Sen. Pat Bourne, for embracing this important legislation and advancing it to final reading. I think it's going to be a very important day for Nebraska when LB 117 becomes law."

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An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at www.ago.state.ne.us.



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 17, 2005, 5:15 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning: Nebraskans Can Now Receive AMBER Alerts Via Text Messaging

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning announced today that Nebraskans can now receive AMBER Alerts via text messaging on their wireless phones.

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children® (NCMEC) and the wireless industry have partnered to launch Wireless AMBER Alerts™, an initiative that will help galvanize 182 million wireless subscribers in the search for an abducted child.

Attorney General Bruning said, "The first few hours after a child is abducted is our best opportunity to save their life. By signing up to receive wireless notification, Nebraskans have an even greater opportunity to be a part of the solution."

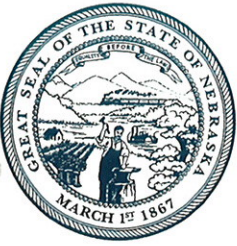
Beginning today, any wireless subscriber capable of receiving text messages, and whose wireless carrier participates in the Wireless AMBER Alerts Initiative, may opt in to receive alerts by registering at www.wirelessamberalerts.org or their wireless carrier's Web site. Subscribers can designate up to five geographic areas from which they would like to receive Wireless AMBER Alerts.

Wireless carriers participating in today's launch include ALLTEL, Cingular Wireless, Dobson Communications, Nextel Communications, RCC/Unicel, Sprint, T-Mobile, U.S. Cellular and Verizon Wireless.

Nebraska currently distributes child abduction alerts via several media sources, including 18 overhead electronic message boards along I-80, the 511 advance traveler information phone system and the NETV Emergency Broadcast System. More than 150 radio and television stations and more than 175 local law enforcement agencies participate in the Nebraska AMBER Plan.

For additional information on the AMBER Alert program, visit the Attorney General's Web site at www.ago.state.ne.us or NCMEC's Web site at <http://www.missingkids.com>.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2005, 4:10 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Attorney General Bruning's Statement on Judge Bataillon's Defense of Marriage Amendment Ruling

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning released the following statement today regarding Judge Joseph Bataillon's ruling on Nebraska's Defense of Marriage Amendment.

Attorney General Bruning said, "This decision comes as no surprise. This is a battle that will be won or lost on appeal, not at the district court level.

"I intend to pursue this case vigorously. We will appeal. Seventy percent of Nebraskans voted for the amendment to define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, and I believe that the citizens of this state have a right to structure their constitution as they see fit."

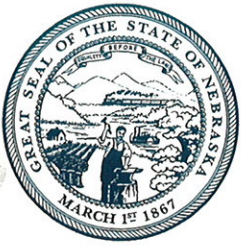
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An audio clip featuring comments from the Attorney General is now available at www.ago.state.ne.us.

- Insist on a written contract that includes a description of the work to be performed, materials to be used, date that the project will begin and an approximate date of completion. If the contractor is not willing to put everything in writing go to someone who will. Remember, don't sign a contract that is not completely filled out.
- Keep records of all contracts, correspondence and anything related to the work to be done.

For additional information or to file a complaint, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at 800-727-6432, 402-471-2682 or visit us online at www.ago.state.ne.us. En Espanol, 402-471-3891 o llamada gratuita, 888-850-7555.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 12, 2005, 3:20 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Warns Nebraskans Against Home Repair Scams in Wake of Storms

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today warned Nebraskans of the potential for home repair scams following extensive damage caused by recent storms in the Hastings and Grand Island area.

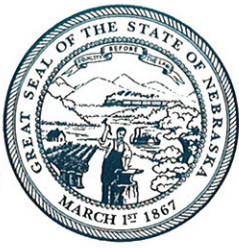
Attorney General Bruning said, "Scam artists have no problem preying on people who have suffered property losses. Consumers in central Nebraska who experienced hail or flood damage to their property should exercise extra caution when hiring home improvement contractors."

The Attorney General added that while the majority contractors are reputable and work for a fair price, there are those who will try to deceive homeowners. The Attorney General's Office received 195 complaints involving home improvement contractors in 2004.

The following tips can help prevent consumers from falling victim to a scam artist:

- Don't be pressured to sign a contract immediately. Take time to research the contractor's work and company.
- Be cautious of a contractor who says they just finished work down the street and has enough leftover material to work on your home, but the offer is only good for that day.
- Out-of-state contractors are more difficult to contact if there is a problem, so be careful about working with contractors that don't have a local address.
- Always get at least three quotes for the work to be done. The more prices you have to compare, the better equipped you will be to make a fully informed decision.
- Ask friends and family about contractors that they have used for similar work and whether they were satisfied with the results.
- Make sure the contractor is bonded, licensed and insured. Get proof in writing and call the agencies to confirm.

(more)



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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2005, 5:05 p.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Announces Sentence in Koch Child Abuse Case

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that Steven G. Koch of Coleridge, Neb., has been sentenced to 18 to 30 months in prison for felony child abuse.

Attorney General Bruning said, "Crimes against children are the worst kind of offenses, often resulting in devastating effects that last for years. As Attorney General, I'm committed to protecting Nebraska's children and prosecuting those who commit crimes of violence against them."

Koch, 34, was previously convicted of assault involving a 4-year-old girl. However, former Dakota County District Court Judge Maurice Redmond granted Koch a new trial based on "error at law." The original case against Koch involved sexual assault and physical assault allegations.

The Attorney General's Office later sought and obtained Redmond's recusal from the case based on an appearance of bias stemming from inappropriate comments Redmond made to prosecutors that "...female child victims often injure themselves by poking objects into their vaginal area or by self-manipulation..."

Koch was found guilty of Class IIIA felony child abuse during the second trial by a jury in Cedar County in March.

The case was handled by Assistant Attorney General George Love and Dakota County Attorney Ed Matney.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 11, 2005, 11:10 a.m. CT

CONTACT:
Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Bruning Files Petition for Disciplinary Action against Norfolk Doctor who Operated Drunk

(Lincoln, Neb.) Attorney General Jon Bruning today announced that he has filed a petition for disciplinary action and temporary suspension of the medical license of Norfolk cardiologist Dr. Thomas Brandt, 51, for performing his duties while under the influence of alcohol.

The Attorney General filed the petition following Brandt's arrest for drunk driving outside Faith Regional Hospital on April 23, 2005. His blood alcohol content was .109.

Brandt, still dressed in surgical scrubs, told law enforcement officers that he had been called in to the hospital to perform an angioplasty on a patient who had been transported by helicopter to the facility. During the traffic stop, Brandt received two phone calls from the hospital regarding patients and placed medication orders for each.

Attorney General Bruning said, "We trust our medical professionals with our lives. This is the nightmare scenario. For someone to even think about entering an operating room while under the influence of alcohol is beyond outrageous."

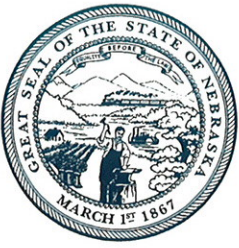
Brandt waived his right to his 15-day hearing, thereby agreeing that his suspension will continue until such time that a public hearing is scheduled within the next 30 days.

Nebraska statute allows the Attorney General's Office to seek disciplinary action against a physician's medical license for unprofessional conduct and/or practicing medicine while impaired by alcohol, controlled substances or narcotics.

Assistant Attorney General Terri Nutzman-Buller is handling the case.

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JON BRUNING
ATTORNEY GENERAL

Attorney General Jon Bruning
Guest Column: May 5, 2005
Contact: Regan Anson, 402-471-2067

Meth Bill Advances Through First Round

Meth-related crimes have skyrocketed throughout our state and in other parts of the Midwest. Robberies, domestic violence, murder, property crimes and forgery, to name a few, are increasingly directly linked to meth use and manufacturing. Unfortunately, it's all too common in our communities for law enforcement officials to bust another lab, arrest another dealer and prosecute another case.

In order for us to continue to outmaneuver these criminals, we must give law enforcement and prosecutors the tools to do our jobs by adapting our laws and strategies to combat these crimes. We must create stronger laws to deal with the "middle men" selling ounce and multiple gram quantities, and we must increase penalties for using firearms while committing drug offenses. It's crucial, especially now, that we bring the proper focus to problem and take adequate measures to ensure that we are doing all we can as a state to hinder the manufacturing and trafficking process.

Law enforcement officials estimate that 20 percent of the meth in Nebraska is being made in our backyards with chemicals that can be purchased at your local grocery store and pharmacy. Law enforcement officials also estimate that they spend 80 percent of their resources dealing with only 20 percent of the state's meth problem. That's due, in large part, to the volatility of the chemicals involved.

I want to thank State Sen. Pat Bourne of Omaha for bravely leading the way on this issue in the Legislature and all of the lawmakers who overwhelmingly advanced this important legislation to the second of three rounds of debate last week. LB 117 specifically targets meth dealers and manufacturers. It toughens penalties for drug crimes involving firearms, brings penalties for meth equal to those for cocaine and adds meth to the list of exceptionally hazardous drugs. It also seeks to restrict the sale of products containing pseudoephedrine.

The bottom line is that this legislation is a necessary next step in our efforts to fight against meth. We cannot afford to be left behind our neighboring states as they impose stricter guidelines for the sale of pseudoephedrine and harsher penalties for cooks and traffickers. Failing to take action now could result in Nebraska becoming a safe haven for meth activity.

The war on drugs has raged in our country for years, but we must not give up the fight. This legislation will make a significant difference in our fight against this scourge in our communities.